

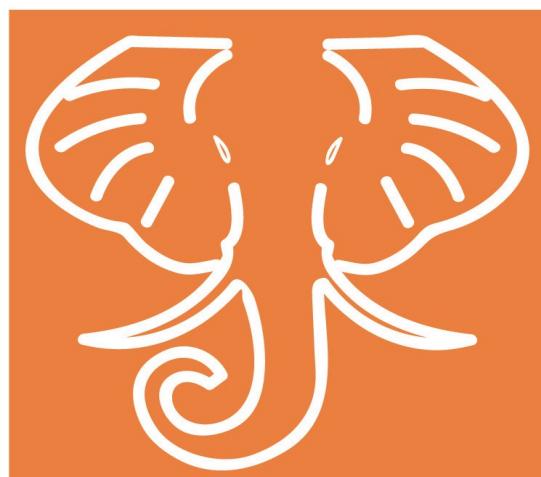
Gold medal for Fred Waring : hearing before the Subcommittee on Consumer Affairs and coinage of the Committee on Banking, Finance, and Urban Affairs, House of Representatives, Ninety-seventh Congress, first session, on H.J. Res. 223 ... July 22, 1981.

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GOLD MEDAL FOR FRED WARING

HEARING
BEFORE THE
SUBCOMMITTEE ON
CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND COINAGE
OF THE
COMMITTEE ON
BANKING, FINANCE AND URBAN AFFAIRS
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
NINETY-SEVENTH CONGRESS
FIRST SESSION
ON
H.J. RES. 223

A BILL TO PROVIDE FOR THE AWARDING OF A SPECIAL GOLD
MEDAL TO FRED WARING

JULY 22, 1981

Serial No. 97-15

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Committee on Banking, Finance and Urban Affairs

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(II)

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(III)

GOLD MEDAL FOR FRED WARING

WEDNESDAY, JULY 22, 1981

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON BANKING, FINANCE AND URBAN AFFAIRS,
SUBCOMMITTEE ON CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND COINAGE,
*Washington, D.C.***

The subcommittee met at 3:15 p.m., in room H-328 of the Capitol, Hon. Frank Annunzio (chairman of the subcommittee) presiding.

Present: Representatives Annunzio and Evans (Del.).

Chairman ANNUNZIO. The meeting of the Consumer Affairs and Coinage Subcommittee will come to order.

This afternoon the subcommittee meets to consider H.J. Res. 223, which would provide for the awarding of a special congressional gold medal to Fred Waring. This resolution has attracted wide support in the House, having been cosponsored by over 230 Members.

[The text of H.J. Res. 223, follows:]

(1)

97TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. J. RES. 223

To provide for the awarding of a special gold medal to Fred Waring.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 1, 1981

Mr. GAYDOS (for himself, Mr. ATKINSON, Mr. BAILEY of Pennsylvania, Mr. CLINGER, Mr. COUGHLIN, Mr. JAMES K. COYNE, Mr. WILLIAM J. COYNE, Mr. DOUGHERTY, Mr. EDGAR, Mr. ERTEL, Mr. FOGLIETTA, Mr. GOODLING, Mr. GRAY, Mr. LEDERER, Mr. MARKS, Mr. McDADE, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. MURTHA, Mr. NELLIGAN, Mr. RITTER, Mr. SCHULZE, Mr. SHUSTER, Mr. WALGREEN, Mr. WALKER, and Mr. YATRON) introduced the following joint resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Banking, Finance and Urban Affairs

JOINT RESOLUTION

To provide for the awarding of a special gold medal to Fred Waring.

Whereas Fred Waring has felt and given voice to the spirit of America for sixty-five years in times of hardship, challenge, or joy with heart stirring choral music; and

Whereas Fred Waring has made, and will continue to make, seminal contributions to American music of the present and future through his workshops, encouragement of talented young persons, and unique professional style; and

Whereas Fred Waring is a living pioneer in the development of modern entertainment, including recording, radio, talking movies, and television; and

Whereas Fred Waring has contributed to the convenience of modern life by perfecting and marketing devices such as the Waring Blender;

Whereas Fred Waring rediscovered and gave the Nation a second anthem in his most popular recording, "The Battle Hymn of the Republic"; and

Whereas Fred Waring and the Pennsylvanians have become synonymous with Christmas by standards that define the sentiment of the season, such as "Do You Hear What I Hear" and "T'was the Night Before Christmas"; and

Whereas the contributions of Fred Waring are numerous and unique, and Americans in the tens of millions have identified him as "The Man Who Taught America How to Sing" by purchasing his choral recordings: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives*
2 *of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*
3 That the Congress directs the President to award to Fred
4 Waring a special gold medal. For such purpose, the Secre-
5 tary of the Treasury shall cause to be struck a gold medal
6 with suitable emblems, devices, and inscriptions to be deter-
7 mined by the Secretary.

8 SEC. 2. Funds may not be appropriated under this Act
9 for any period before October 1, 1981.

Chairman ANNUNZIO. Under the guidelines of the subcommittee, only gold medal bills that have more than 218 cosponsors can be considered. This cosponsorship requirement was imposed to assure that only those individuals whose deeds have embellished or contributed to America are honored with special awards.

In the 205-year history of our country, only 90 pieces of legislation authorizing gold medals have been enacted. Congressional gold medals are truly special awards. Each is different and meant to uniquely honor the recipient.

Fred Waring's contributions to America are well-known and widely documented. His musical achievements have not only brought joy to the hearts of countless listeners but also have contributed to stirring the patriotic feelings of his countrymen. His recording of "The Battle Hymn of the Republic" has virtually made that moving tune the second anthem of our Nation.

Mr. Waring's achievements, however, are not limited solely to his prowess as a musician. He has been involved in perfecting and marketing electrical devices designed to make everyday life better and has been a pioneer in developing and shaping such diverse and important mediums as radio, television, motion pictures, and sound recordings.

He has not been selfish concerning his talents. Mr. Waring has played a leading role in teaching music to young Americans so that they, too, can participate in and contribute to the development of American music.

Given his multifaceted abilities and his tremendous contributions to American life, I am not at all surprised that this bill has attracted so much support. I am proud to join with the other House Members who have cosponsored this legislation.

I want to extend a warm welcome this afternoon to the Honorable John P. Murtha of the 12th Congressional District of Pennsylvania. Congressman Murtha has been a Member of Congress for five terms. Before becoming a Member of Congress, he served in the Pennsylvania House of Representatives. He is a member of the Appropriations Committee and is here today on behalf of the Pennsylvania congressional delegation.

Before I ask you to proceed, Mr. Murtha, I would like to ask the distinguished ranking minority member at this time—he is dedicated and has always been cooperative with the Chair; he has helped to write the record of this subcommittee—if he would like to make a statement. Congressman Evans.

Mr. EVANS of Delaware. Mr. Chairman, I appreciate your very kind and thoughtful words. I want you to know that I have a great deal of respect for you as well. I also have a great love for Fred Waring, and a great deal of respect for the gentleman from Pennsylvania, John Murtha. I join with the chairman of our subcommittee in welcoming you, Mr. Murtha.

Chairman ANNUNZIO. Mr. Murtha, please proceed in your own manner.

STATEMENT OF HON. JOHN P. MURTHA, A REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF PENNSYLVANIA

Mr. MURTHA. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

I want to apologize. Congressman Gaydos, the dean of the delegation, had a problem back in his district and had to fly back to Pittsburgh. Joe McDade is on the floor handling the very important Interior bill, and he has just won a big amendment down there. So I am the substitute for these two distinguished Members of Congress.

But I appreciate very much the chairman and Mr. Evans holding this special meeting for the Pennsylvania delegation so that we could present on behalf of Mr. Waring, some facts which we think should be in the record to accompany the voting on the resolution.

This resolution has the sponsorship of the entire delegation, as you mentioned, and over 200 Members of the House of Representatives.

Fred Waring was born in Tyrone, Pa., which is not far from the district I represent. Mr. Waring has given command performances for the Queen of England and pioneered in the development of choral music in the United States, taking television by storm in the fifties and sixties. He staged television's first musical spectacular, "The Emperor's New Clothes", and made numerous appearances on his own shows or as a guest of a number of Hollywood celebrities.

His musical training began at the age of five and led him to develop the style that has been the basis for his nearly 75 years as a leader of American music. Fred Waring's development as an artist and setter of trends virtually duplicates the tradition of the American success story that Congress is trying to bring back to life in other arenas.

He started a small combo composed of himself and some hometown friends, and they stuck with it and became better and better. Gaining attention and popularity, the group moved into recordings, radio, talking movies, and television, and eventually into the Pennsylvanians of today, for whom millions of Americans will stop whatever they are doing to listen.

Fred Waring is currently a resident of Shawnee-on-the-Delaware, Pa. He and the Pennsylvanians tour each year an average of 35 States, covering 40,000 miles by bus, to entertain hundreds of thousands of people. Once asked if he tired of the pace, he answered, "Yes, but never discouraged, never tired of the wonderful audiences." So we have a mutual affection, Mr. Chairman and Mr. Evans. Fred Waring likes the people, and the people like him.

He and the Pennsylvanians have just completed their last national tour, his 65th, as the finale to a lifetime spent in earning the title, "The Man Who Taught America To Sing." Fred Waring's numerous contributions are outlined in the resolution, Mr. Chairman, and speak for themselves.

I will simply close by saying the award of a special gold medal to an American who is as worthy and deserving as Mr. Waring truly and accurately expresses the profound appreciation of all Americans for the beautiful music which has delighted so many for so long and a style which will continue for years to come. It would be a fitting cap to a career spent making life a little more pleasant for all.

Therefore, Mr. Chairman, I hope you and the subcommittee will see your way to approve House Joint Resolution 223.

[Mr. Murtha's prepared statement follows:]

STATEMENT OF CONGRESSMAN JOHN P. MURTHA

BEFORE THE

COMMITTEE ON BANKING, FINANCE AND URBAN AFFAIRS

SUBCOMMITTEE ON CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND COINAGE

JULY 22, 1981

MR. CHAIRMAN:

LET ME EXPRESS MY APPRECIATION AND THAT OF
MY COLLEAGUE, MR. McDADE, FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO APPEAR
BEFORE YOUR SUBCOMMITTEE IN SUPPORT OF HOUSE JOINT RESO-
LUTION 223, WHICH WOULD AUTHORIZE THE AWARD OF A SPECIAL
GOLD MEDAL TO FRED WARING.

IN THIS MANNER WOULD CONGRESS, ACTING FOR THE
PEOPLE, RECOGNIZE MR. WARING'S CONTRIBUTIONS TO LIFE IN
AMERICA.

THIS RESOLUTION HAS THE SPONSORSHIP OF THE ENTIRE
PENNSYLVANIA CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION AND MORE THAN 200

- 2 -

OTHER MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

BORN IN TYRONE, PENNSYLVANIA, IN 1900, MR.

WARING HAS GIVEN COMMAND PERFORMANCES FOR THE QUEEN

OF ENGLAND AND PIONEERED THE DEVELOPMENT OF CHORAL

MUSIC IN THE UNITED STATES, TAKING TELEVISION BY

STORM IN THE 1950s AND 1960s.

HE STAGED TELEVISION'S FIRST MUSICAL SPECTA-

CULAR, THE "EMPEROR'S NEW CLOTHES" AND MADE NUMEROUS

APPEARANCES ON HIS OWN SHOWS OR AS THE GUEST OF A

NUMBER OF HOLLYWOOD CELEBRITIES. MUSICAL TRAINING

- 3' -

BEGUN AT AGE FIVE LED HIM TO DEVELOP THE STYLE THAT HAS BEEN THE BASIS FOR NEARLY 75 YEARS AS A LEADER IN AMERICAN MUSIC.

FRED WARING'S DEVELOPMENT AS AN ARTIST AND SETTER OF TRENDS VIRTUALLY DUPLICATES THE TRADITIONAL AMERICAN SUCCESS STORY THE CONGRESS IS TRYING TO BRING BACK TO LIFE IN OTHER ARENAS.

HE STARTED SMALL -- A COMBO COMPOSED OF HIMSELF AND SOME HOMETOWN FRIENDS. THEY STUCK WITH IT AND BECAME BETTER AND BETTER.

- 4 -

GAINING ATTENTION AND POPULARITY, THE GROUP
MOVED INTO RECORDING, RADIO, TALKING MOVIES AND TELE-
VISION AND EVENTUALLY EVOLVED INTO THE PENNSYLVANIANS
OF TODAY FOR WHOM MILLIONS OF AMERICANS WILL STOP WHAT-
EVER THEY ARE DOING TO LISTEN.

FRED WARING, CURRENTLY A RESIDENT OF SHAWNEE-
ON-THE-DELAWARE, PENNSYLVANIA, AND THE PENNSYLVANIANS
EACH YEAR TOUR AN AVERAGE OF 35 STATES, COVERING 40,000
MILES BY BUS TO ENTERTAIN HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE.

ONCE ASKED IF HE TIRED OF THE PACE, HE ANSWERED:

- 5 -

"YES, BUT NEVER DISCOURAGED AND NEVER TIRED
OF THE WONDERFUL AUDIENCES."

SO WE HAVE A MUTUAL AFFECTION, MR. CHAIRMAN.
FRED WARING LIKES THE PEOPLE AND THE PEOPLE LIKE HIM.
HE AND THE PENNSYLVANIANS HAVE JUST COMPLETED
THEIR LAST NATIONAL TOUR, HIS 65TH, AS THE FINALE TO
A LIFETIME SPENT IN EARNING THE TITLE, THE "MAN WHO
TAUGHT AMERICA TO SING."

FRED WARING'S NUMEROUS CONTRIBUTIONS ARE OUT-
LINED IN THE RESOLUTION, MR CHAIRMAN, AND SPEAK FOR
THEMSELVES.

- 6 -

I WILL SIMPLY CLOSE BY SAYING THE AWARD OF A
SPECIAL GOLD MEDAL TO AN AMERICAN AS WORTHY AND DE-
SERVING AS MR. WARING WOULD TRULY AND ACCURATELY EX-
PRESS THE PROFOUND APPRECIATION OF ALL AMERICA FOR
THE BEAUTIFUL MUSIC WHICH HAS DELIGHTED SO MANY FOR
SO LONG, AND FOR THE STYLE THAT WILL CONTINUE FOR YEARS
TO COME.

IT WOULD BE A FITTING CAP TO A CAREER SPENT
MAKING LIFE A LITTLE MORE PLEASANT FOR ALL.

THEREFORE, MR. CHAIRMAN, I HOPE YOU AND THE
COMMITTEE WILL SEE YOUR WAY CLEAR TO APPROVE HOUSE
JOINT RESOLUTION 223.

Mr. MURTHA. I would like to submit for the record, Mr. Chairman, Congressman McDade's statement. He could not be here. Chairman ANNUNZIO. Without objection, so ordered.
[Mr. McDade's statement follows:]

JULY 22, 1981

STATEMENT OF CONGRESSMAN JOSEPH M. McDADE
COMMITTEE ON BANKING, FINANCE AND URBAN AFFAIRS
SUBCOMMITTEE ON CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND COINAGE

MR. CHAIRMAN:

IT IS A PLEASURE FOR ME TO JOIN MY COLLEAGUE, AND THE ENTIRE PENNSYLVANIA DELEGATION, IN SUPPORT OF H.J. RES. 223 WHICH PROVIDES FOR THE AWARDING OF A SPECIAL GOLD MEDAL TO FRED WARING, NOT ONLY THE FATHER OF AMERICAN CHORAL MUSIC, BUT I AM HAPPY TO ADD A CONSTITUENT OF MINE.

MR. MURTHA IN HIS TESTIMONY MENTIONED THE MANY TOURS MADE BY MR. WARING AND THE PENNSYLVANIANS AS WELL AS HIS ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN THE FIELD OF MUSIC IN GENERAL. IN MY SUPPORT OF H.J. RES. 223, IT IS A PLEASURE TO REVEAL THE ACTIVITIES OF MR. WARING REGARDING HIS MUSICAL WORKSHOP WHICH HAS BEEN OPERATING CONTINUOUSLY SINCE 1947, AND WHICH SINCE ITS BEGINNING HAS HAD OVER 35,000 STUDENTS AND TEACHERS OF MUSIC SEEKING AND FINDING THE FRED WARING SECRETS OF SINGING.

LOCATED AT PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY, THE WORKSHOP HAS A DISTINGUISHED FACULTY OF ACTIVE SHOW BUSINESS PROS WHO ARE TEACHING STUDENTS FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD THE PROFESSIONAL TOUCH AND POLISH IN THE FIELD OF MUSIC.

WHILE MR. WARING HAS MADE HIS FINAL TOUR,
THIS MASTER SHOWMAN AND TEACHER WILL CONTINUE TO GIVE
AND SHARE HIS FORTUNE OF ACCUMULATED SHOW BUSINESS
EXPERIENCE AND KNOWLEDGE WITH THE YOUTH AND MUSIC
EDUCATORS VIA HIS SUMMER WORKSHOP AT PENN STATE.

AS PREVIOUSLY MENTIONED, MR. WARING WILL
ALWAYS BE REMEMBERED AS "THE MAN WHO TAUGHT AMERICA
TO SING".

I WANT TO THANK THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF
THE SUBCOMMITTEE FOR THEIR EXPEDITIOUS HANDLING OF
H.J. RES. 223 AND KNOW THAT THE ENTIRE CONGRESS
WILL TAKE PRIDE IN RECOGNIZING FRED WARING "THE
FATHER OF AMERICAN CHORAL MUSIC" THROUGH THE
BESTOWAL OF THE SPECIAL MEDAL.

Chairman ANNUNZIO. Do you have any other statements for the record?

Mr. MURTHA. No, Mr. Chairman. But I also want to express my appreciation to former Congressman Jimmy Van Zandt, retired Admiral Van Zandt, who really did all the work on this thing and we certainly appreciate his help. He is here today, as you know, to see this resolution through its initial stage.

We appreciate very much this special meeting and both of you who are so busy taking the time to hear our presentation.

Chairman ANNUNZIO. When is the date on which Mr. Waring is being honored?

Mr. MURTHA. September 15.

Chairman ANNUNZIO. September 15. I just want to apprise my good friend that the subcommittee will move expeditiously, I hope this afternoon, and be able to pass the resolution. I have made arrangements with the chairman of the full committee so that tomorrow morning it will be passed by the full Banking Committee. I will have it on the floor, if you will tell your people from Pennsylvania—hopefully, under suspension on Monday.

So if you would write a letter to your Pennsylvania delegation, I will make the usual request for five legislative days to extend and revise remarks. That way, you can get all your statements in from the Pennsylvania members.

Do you have any further comments or questions?

Mr. EVANS of Delaware. I have no further comments, Mr. Chairman, except to thank Mr. Murtha for being with us. And, Admiral, good to have you here.

Chairman ANNUNZIO. I will let our staff director inform you about some other technicalities that we have with the mint. But as far as the committee is concerned, I am moving as expeditiously as I can.

Mr. MURTHA. We very much appreciate it, Mr. Chairman and Mr. Evans.

Mr. PRINS. Congressman, we contacted the mint immediately when the 218 cosponsors were achieved, knowing there was a September 15 deadline on this. It normally takes 6 months to strike a medal. The mint says in this case they can get it done from the time the legislation is enacted to presentation in 10 weeks, which of course is going to put you past your September 15 deadline.

I didn't want you to labor under the misapprehension that you are going to have a gold medal by September 15. It is just physically not possible to meet that timetable.

Chairman ANNUNZIO. But what we will do is have a facsimile drawn by the mint. Then you can explain to the audience that this is the facsimile of the gold medal, the design and everything, and that when it is finished at the mint, we will present it to Mr. Waring.

Mr. MURTHA. We appreciate it.

Chairman ANNUNZIO. What the Pennsylvanian delegation can do, which will be worth a considerable amount of money, by the way—I did not want to mention the amount now—but you can arrange to have a little reception here in the Capitol and invite whom ever you want, and then have your committee make the presentation. We don't do that, you know.

Mr. MURTHA. I appreciate that, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman ANNUNZIO. All you do is invite us as guests.

Mr. MURTHA. We will invite you not only to that but also to Pennsylvania Day, which will be on the 15th, which Joe Gaydos has really been working on.

Chairman ANNUNZIO. I have instructed my staff to try to get for you, by September 15, if possible, a sketch from the mint.

Mr. MURTHA. Beautiful. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman ANNUNZIO. The subcommittee will now go into executive session. You can stay if you want.

Mr. MURTHA. No, thank you.

Chairman ANNUNZIO. The subcommittee now stands adjourned.

[Whereupon, the hearing was adjourned.]

[The following letter, dated July 22, 1981, from David R. Brennen, Deputy General Counsel, Department of the Treasury, was submitted for inclusion in the record:]



DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY
OFFICE OF THE GENERAL COUNSEL
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20220

JUL 22 1981

Dear Mr. Chairman:

Reference is made to your request for the views of this Department on H.J. Res. 223, "To provide for the awarding of a special gold medal to Fred Waring."

The proposed legislation would authorize the presentation of a gold medal to Mr. Fred Waring, on behalf of the Congress, in recognition of his numerous and continuing contributions to the field of American music. The gold medal would bear such emblems, devices and inscriptions as would be determined by the Secretary of the Treasury. The bill authorizes that funds may not be appropriated under this Act for any period before October 1, 1981.

The Department has no comments to make concerning the merits of the proposal. Under the guidelines agreed upon by the Subcommittee on Consumer Affairs of the House Committee on Banking, Finance and Urban Affairs and the Bureau of the Mint some years ago, a national medal should honor only those events that have contributed to and advanced the history of the country or those persons whose superior deeds or achievements have embellished our history or who are representative of the finest of accomplishments in service to the Nation. While the bill does not state that the medal is a national medal for the purposes of section 3551 of the Revised Statutes (31 U.S.C. 368), we recommend that the same guidelines should be applied. The Department defers to the judgment of the Congress as to whether H.J. Res. 223 meets the appropriate criteria.

For your information, the last gold medal executed by the Mint (the Red Cross Medal) had a diameter of 1 1/2 inches and was made of .999 fine troy gold. This medal contained approximately 2.06 troy ounces of gold. Based upon an estimated cost of gold at \$425 an ounce, plus engraving and production costs of approximately \$20,000, we would estimate that a similar medal for the instant legislation would cost approximately \$21,000. Accordingly, the Department recommends that an amount of \$21,000 be authorized in the proposed legislation.

-2-

The terminology of section 2 of the bill implies that funds may be appropriated after October 1, 1981. As it is only implied that there is authorization for appropriation, we suggest an amendment to section 2 to read: "It is authorized to be appropriated not to exceed \$21,000 to carry out the provisions of this Act." Without the appropriation of any funds for this program, there would be a detrimental impact on the Treasury Department's budget.

The Department has been advised by the Office of Management and Budget that there is no objection from the standpoint of the Administration's program to the submission of this report to your Committee.

Sincerely,

(Signed) David R. Brennan

David R. Brennan
Deputy General Counsel

The Honorable
Frank Annunzio
Chairman, Subcommittee on
Consumer Affairs and Coinage
of the Committee on Banking,
Finance and Urban Affairs
212 House Office Building, Annex No. 1
Washington, DC 20515





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